



Illinois State Board of Education

March 24, 2020

Audrey Soglin
Executive Director
Illinois Education Association

On behalf of the full State Board of Education, I write to express our deepest appreciation to you and everyone in your organization for your commitment to the education of Illinois students—and, particularly, for the collaborative and decisive leadership you have shown in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.

We know how hard it must be for you, as it is for us, to see schools in Illinois closed, and education disrupted. That said, the Illinois Education Association has risen to the challenge at hand. Dr. Ayala has updated our Board about the partnership you and other key stakeholders have demonstrated—and she has emphasized how important that partnership has been to the agency's proactive, comprehensive and ongoing response. Amidst the disruption, the intense efforts of you and your members across the State—creatively finding ways to maintain continuity of education and meals for children and families—is so inspiring!

While there is still much more work to do to help our school communities get back and stay on track, we know our students are in the best of hands thanks to your hard work and dedication, and that of school administrators, teachers, staff, parents, students and advocates across the state. You, your team, and your respective families are in our thoughts during these challenging times. Please do feel free to send this message along to your team and/or members. Be safe and, as Dr. Ayala knows, the Board stands ready to support her and all of you in whatever ways you need.

Best,

Darren

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